

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-6 and 16-18 as follows. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus having a plurality of authentication mechanisms, comprising:
  - an input means for inputting unit adapted to input authentication information of an object of authentication;
  - a determination means for determining unit adapted to determine whether the authentication information that has been input by said input means is that of an object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication mechanisms;
  - a display control means for displaying unit adapted to display a list of the plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined by said determination means unit that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover; and
  - a registration means for registering unit adapted to register, as an effective authentication mechanism, an authentication mechanism that has been selected from the list displayed by said display control means unit.

2. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus having a plurality of authentication mechanisms, comprising:

an input means for inputting unit adapted to input authentication  
information of an object of authentication;

a determination means for determining unit adapted to determine whether  
the authentication information that has been input by said input means unit is that of an  
object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication  
mechanisms;

a display control means for displaying unit adapted to display a list of the  
plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined by said determination  
means unit that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover;

a selection means for selecting unit adapted to permit selection of an  
authentication mechanism in the list displayed by said display control means unit; and

a registration means for registering unit adapted to register the  
authentication mechanism, which has been selected by using said selection means unit, as  
an effective authentication mechanism in a case where the authentication mechanism that  
has been selected by using said selection means unit has registered authentication  
information input by said input means unit.

3. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said input means unit reads a card on which authentication information of  
an object of authentication has been recorded and inputs said authentication information.

4. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input ~~means~~ unit inputs the authentication information ~~by using~~ a web browser.

5. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of authentication mechanisms has:

a storage ~~means~~ unit that has registered authentication information of an object of authentication; and

an authentication determination ~~means~~ unit which, in a case where entered authentication information of a user has been registered in said storage ~~means~~ unit, is for authenticating this object of authentication.

6. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 1, further having a start-up ~~means~~ unit for starting up an authentication mechanism that has been registered as an effective authentication mechanism by said registration ~~means~~ unit.

7. (Previously Presented) An authentication method of changing over a plurality of authentication mechanisms and performing authentication, comprising:

an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

a determination step of determining whether the authentication information that has been input at said input step is that of an object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication mechanisms;

a display control step of displaying a list of the plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined at said determination step that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover; and

a registration step of registering, as an effective authentication mechanism, an authentication mechanism that has been selected from the list displayed at said display control step.

8. (Previously Presented) An authentication method of changing over a plurality of authentication mechanisms and performing authentication, comprising:

an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

a determination step of determining whether the authentication information that has been input at said input step is that of an object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication mechanisms;

a display control step of displaying a list of the plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined at said determination step that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover;

a selection step of selecting an authentication mechanism in the list displayed at said display control step; and

a registration step of registering the authentication mechanism, which has been selected at said selection step, as an effective authentication mechanism in a case where the authentication mechanism that has been selected at said selection step has registered authentication information input at said input step.

9. (Previously Presented) An authentication method according to claim 7, wherein a card on which authentication information of an object of authentication has been recorded is read and said authentication information is input at said input step.

10. (Previously Presented) An authentication method according to claim 7, wherein the authentication information input by a web browser at said input step.

11. (Previously Presented) An authentication method according to any one of claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of authentication mechanisms has a storage unit that registers authentication information of an object of authentication, and said method further has an authentication determination step which, in a case where entered authentication information of an object of authentication has been registered in said storage unit, is a step of authenticating this object of authentication.

12. (Previously Presented) An authentication method according to claim 7, further having a start-up step of starting up an authentication mechanism that has been registered as an effective authentication mechanism at said registration step.

13. (Previously Presented) An authentication method comprising:

an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

a first authentication step of authenticating whether an object of authentication has access right to a first system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the first system if authentication succeeds;

a second authentication step of authenticating whether the object of authentication has access right to a second system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the second system if authentication succeeds;

a control step of controlling whether the object of authentication will be managed under management of the first system or under management of the second system; and

a verification step of verifying that authentication of the object of authentication in the second system has succeeded at said second authentication step;

wherein if an instruction that shifts the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system has been recognized, said control step controls said first authentication step and said second authentication step, in order to shift the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system, on the condition that the

authentication of the object of authentication at said second authentication step has been verified at said verification step.

14. (Previously Presented) An authentication method according to claim 13, wherein said control step controls said first authentication step in such a manner that the object of authentication is excluded from management at said first authentication step in a case where it is verified at said verification step that the object of authentication has been authenticated at said second authentication step.

15. (Previously Presented) An authentication method according to claim 13 wherein said first authentication step authenticates user-level access privilege, and said second authentication step manages administrator-level access privilege.

16. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus comprising:  
an input means for inputting unit adapted to input authentication information of an object of authentication;  
a first authentication means for authenticating unit adapted to authenticate whether an object of authentication has access right to a first system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input by said input means unit, and allowing the object of authentication to access the first system if authentication succeeds;

a second authentication ~~means for authenticating~~ unit adapted to authenticate whether the object of authentication has access right to a second system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input by said input ~~means~~ unit, and allowing the object of authentication to access the second system if authentication succeeds;

a control ~~means for controlling~~ unit adapted to control whether the object of authentication will be managed under management of the first system or under management of the second system; and

a verification ~~means for verifying~~ unit adapted to verify that authentication of the object of authentication in the second system by said second authentication ~~means~~ unit has succeeded;

wherein if an instruction that shifts the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system has been recognized, said control ~~means~~ unit controls said first authentication ~~means~~ unit and said second authentication ~~means~~ unit, in order to shift the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system, on the condition that the authentication of the object of authentication by said second authentication ~~means~~ unit has been verified by said verification ~~means~~ unit.

17. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said control ~~means~~ unit controls said first authentication ~~means~~ unit in such a manner that the object of authentication is excluded from management by said first



authentication ~~means~~ unit in a case where it is verified by said verification ~~means~~ unit that the object of authentication has been authenticated by said second authentication ~~means~~ unit.

18. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said first authentication ~~means~~ unit authenticates user-level access privilege, and said second authentication ~~means~~ unit manages administrator-level access privilege.

19. (Previously Presented) An authentication program comprising:  
code for implementing an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

code for implementing a first authentication step of authenticating whether an object of authentication has access right to a first system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the first system if authentication succeeds;

code for implementing a second authentication step of authenticating whether the object of authentication has access right to a second system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the second system if authentication succeeds;

code for implementing a control step of controlling whether the object of authentication will be managed under management of the first system or under management of the second system; and

code for implementing a verification step of verifying that authentication of the object of authentication in the second system has succeeded at said second authentication step;

wherein if an instruction that shifts the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system has been recognized, said control step controls said first authentication step and said second authentication step, in order to shift the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system, on the condition that the authentication of the object of authentication at said second authentication step has been verified at said verification step.